AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

19.   (New) A method for tracking an item that is received, stored and shipped, said method comprising the steps of:

assigning a first item identifier indicative of an identify of the item, a destination identifier indicative of a predetermined destination for the item, a status identifier indicative of a status of the item, and a storage location identifier indicative of a storage location of the item within a storage area;

storing the first item identifier, destination identifier, status identifier, and location identifier in a selectively programmable identification device having a memory that is operatively in communication with a computer system;

assigning a second item identifier to the item that associates the item with the first item identifier, wherein the second item identifier is stored in the memory of the programmable identification device;

affixing the selectively programmable identification device to the item; and

using the first item identifier, second item identifier, destination identifier, status identifier and storage identifier in tracking the location of the item.

20.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 19, further including the step of programming the selectively programmable identification device with the first item identifier, destination identifier, status identifier and the location identifier when the item is received.

21.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the step of modifying the storage location identifier if the item is moved to another storage location within the storage area.

22.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the step of assigning a transportation status identifier to the item indicative of whether the item has been shipped, wherein the transportation ~~status~~ identifier is stored in the memory of the selectively programmable identification device.

23.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the step of removing the location determining device before the item is shipped from the storage area.

24.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 19 wherein the selectively programmable identification device includes a processor, a memory and a transceiver.

25.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 19 ~~wherein said selectively~~ further including the step of the programmable identification device selectively transmitting a geographic coordinate corresponding to storage location of the item.

26.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 19 wherein said selectively programmable identification device is a bar code storage device for selectively reading and storing the first item identifier, second item identifier, destination identifier, status identifier and the location identifier.

27.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the steps of identifying a predetermined transportation means and assigning the item to the identified transportation means.

28.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 19 further including the step of selectively altering the status identifier to prevent or allow shipment of the item.

29.   (New) A method for shipping a freight item, said method comprising the steps of:

placing the freight item at a predetermined storage location within a storage area having a plurality of storage locations;

placing a programmable identification device upon the freight item, wherein at least an identification code, a destination code and a status code are stored in the identification device;

storing a storage location code indicating the predetermined storage location of the freight item in the identification device;

assigning the freight item to a freight transport carrier based on the stored destination code and the status code; and

using the stored storage location code from the identification device to locate the freight item for shipping on the freight transport carrier.

30.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein the status code contains the shipping availability of the freight item and the freight item is selected only if the stored status code indicates shipping availability.

31.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein the freight item is a vehicle.

32.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 29 further comprising the step of generating a report including the location of the freight item.

33.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein a rail car is used as a freight transport carrier.

34.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 29 further comprising the step of selectively storing the identification code, the destination code, the storage location code and the status code in a computer database.

35.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 29 further comprising the step of updating the storage code if the freight item is moved to another predetermined storage location within the storage area.

36.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 29 wherein the identification device includes a transceiver.

37.   (New) A method as set forth in claim 29 further comprising the step of selectively altering the status code to selectively prevent or allow shipment of the freight item.

38.   (New)   A method as set forth in claim 29 further comprising the step of assigning an identification code indicating shipment of the item has occurred.

39.   (New)   A system for tracking an item that is received, stored and shipped comprising:

a storage area for storing the item having a plurality of predetermined storage locations and an identifier associated with each storage location;

a computer system having a database, and the predetermined location identifier, an item identifier, a status identifier and a destination identifier are stored in a memory of said computer system; and

a selectively programmable identification device disposed on the item, wherein an item identifier, a location identifier, a status identifier and a destination identifier are stored in a memory of said location determination device, and said identification device is operatively in communication with said computer system for tracking the item using the item identifier, the location identifier, the status identifier and the destination identifier.

40.   (New)   A system as set forth in claim 39 wherein a transportation status identifier indicative of whether the item has been shipped is stored in the memory of the identification device and the computer system.

41.   (New)   A system as set forth in claim 39 wherein said identification device selectively transmits a geographic coordinate corresponding to the location of the item.

42.   (New)   A system as set forth in claim 39 wherein said location determining device is a bar code storage device for selectively reading and storing the location identifier, the item identifier, the status identifier, and the destination identifier.

43.   (New)   A system as set forth in claim 39 wherein the item is a vehicle.